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Document Number 2

Entry 2 of 19   File: USPT   Dec 14, 1999

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6003007 A
TITLE: Attachment integrated claims system and operating method therefor

BSPR:
During step S1, the dentist decides that a costly procedure is necessary for a patient whose insurance carrier requires prior approval for such treatment. During step S2, the dentist provides the patient with his diagnosis and gives the patient an estimate for performing the recommended procedure. The dentist then asks the patient to contact his insurance carrier, or plan administrator at work, to obtain the necessary PAC form. During step S3, the patient completes that portion of the PAC form that pertains to him, signs the form, and sends it to his provider.

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Document Number 4

Entry 4 of 19   File: USPT   Apr 27, 1999

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5898771 A
TITLE: Method and apparatus for universal telephone operator service

ABPL:
A local exchange carrier can provide operator service for a telephone
call, whether intra-LATA or not, and in some cases to perform the
service so that the call can be passed with the service already
provided. Operator services for calls that require prior approval at a
subscriber station for completion and those that do not (e.g., collect
calls vs. credit card calls) are differentiated. If, for a particular
call, it is determined that the required operator service does not
require prior approval for the call being placed, then the operator
service is provided from the end-office without routing the call to an
operator services platform. The call may be serviced using an advanced
intelligent network (AIN) system. If the required operator service does
require prior approval, however, it is ultimately routed to an operator
services platform of the local exchange carrier or interexchange carrier
for provision of the service.

BSPR:
By the method and apparatus of the invention, there is a differentiation
between operator services for calls that require prior approval for
completion and those that do not. This determines whether the operator
service required for a call will be provided by operations carried out
within, or through, the end-office or whether the call needs to be
passed from the end-office to an operator services platform. In
processing the call, a decision is made as to whether the end-office,
using an AIN system, can be prevailed upon to provide the needed service
or whether the call has to be routed to an operator service platform. If
the operator service is provided by the end-office, it is enabled by
processing triggers that result in access to a system database for
information and data needed for performing the service. Preferably, the
end-office is adapted for operation within an advanced intelligent
network (AIN) environment. Among the operator services which do not
entail routing for prior call approval, and which are therefore amenable
to end-office operator services, are credit card calls and coin-paid
calls.

BSPR:
If, it is determined that the required operator service is of a type
that does not require prior approval for the call being placed (e.g., it
is a credit card call or a coin-paid call), then the operator services
are provided from the end-office, without routing the call to an
operator services platform. In that case, the call is serviced by the
end-office switching means, along with any required peripherals (such as
announcement units, coin detectors), and by calling upon the facilities,
preferably, of an AIN system.

DEPR:
Thus, step 103 is important since it differentiates between calls that
require prior approval for completion and those that do not. This
differentiation determines whether the operator service required for a

call will be provided by operations carried out within, or through, the
end-office itself or whether the call needs to be passed from the
end-office to an operator services platform for that purpose. As will
become clear from the ensuing discussion, if the operator service is
provided by the end-office, that facility is enabled in its performance
by processing triggers that result in access being gained to information
and data, from a system database, that is needed for providing the
service. Preferably, the end-office is enabled in that regard by its
operation within an advanced intelligent network (AIN) environment. In
one view, a decision is made in step 103 as to whether the end-office,
using an AIN system, can be prevailed upon to provide the needed service
or whether the call has to be routed to an operator service platform.
Among the operator services which do not entail routing for advanced
call approval, and which are therefore amenable to end-office operator
services, are credit card calls and coin-pay calls. Notably, if the
end-office provides the operator service, then an IXC call can be passed
to the IXC network with the operator service having become transparent
to the IXC.

DEPR:
By contrast, if, at step 103, it is determined that the required
operator service is of a type that does not require prior approval for
the call being placed (e.g., it is a credit card call or a coin-paid
call), then the operator services are to be provided from the
end-office, without routing the call to an operator services platform.
In that case, the call is serviced by the end-office switching means,
along with any required peripherals (such as announcement units, coin
detectors), and by calling upon the facilities, preferably, of an AIN
system.

DEPR:
It is assumed that all operator services not provided by operations
carried out through an end-office (i.e., those for which prior approval
is required for call completion), whether for long distance calls or for
intra-LATA calls, are provided by an operator services platform 220
operated by the local exchange carrier that operates end-office 204
through which the call originates. Preferably, for IXC calls, the
operator service platform 220 is accessed and configured with signaling
and other connections as discussed in the aforementioned Robert P.
Florindi et al. application, referenced above, the disclosure of which
is incorporated herein by reference. Thus, calls passing to the IXC
network 201 with operator services yet to be provided are routed through
the IXC network 201 to a point-of-presence (POP) 222 maintained by the
IXC in the LATA where the operator service platform 220 is located. The
POP 222 connects those calls to the operator services platform 220,
preferably through a Feature Group D trunk 224. This arrangement allows
information about the call, including the identity of the calling
station 216, the called station 218, and an indication of the operator
service required to be directed to the operator services platform 220.
Intra-LATA calls that require operator services other than those
available through end-office operations are routed to the operator
service platform 220 in a conventional manner by way of a operator
service trunk (OSS) 226 which also carries information regarding the
calling and called stations and the operator service expected.

DEPR:
The service for billing a call to a third party begins at step 315 with
the entry, for example, of the digit 3 from the service selection menu.
In response, at step 355 (FIG. 3D), a check is made, of the IXC flag, to
see if the call is intra-LATA or not. Since third party billing requires
prior approval from someone at a third party telephone, no triggering
event will be detected to indicate that the requested service is of a
type which can be provided from the end-office 204. The call will
therefore ultimately need to be directed to the operator service
platform 220 for handling, either as an intra-LATA call or as an
inter-LATA call.

CLPR:
11. The system of claim 10, wherein the trigger is indicative of one of

said plurality of available operator services other than one that
requires prior approval for completion of the call to be obtained by
contact with a subscriber station other than the calling station.

CLPV:
(d) for an operator service selected from the menu, determining if that
service requires prior approval for completion of the call to be
obtained at a subscriber station other than the calling station;

CLPV:
(e) if it is determined that the selected service requires such prior
approval for completion of the call, then passing the call from the
end-office to a separate service provider from which the selected
operator service is then provided for the call; and

CLPV:
(f) if it is determined that the selected service does not require such
prior approval for completion of the call, then providing the selected
operator service for the call by operations conducted through the
end-office, comprising the further step of accessing the AIN database by
the end-office.

CLPV:
(d) for an operator service selected from the menu, determining if that
service is of a type whose performance requires prior approval for
completion of the call to be obtained at a subscriber station other than
the calling station;

CLPV:
(e) if it is determined that the selected service requires such prior
approval for completion of the call, then passing the call from the
switch to an interexchange carrier network from which the selected
operator service is then provided for the call if the call is not an
intra-LATA call; and

CLPV:
(f) if it is determined that the selected service does not require such
prior approval for completion of the call, then providing the selected
operator service for the call by operations conducted through the
switch, using information obtained by the switch from access to the AIN
database, and then passing the call to an interexchange carrier network
for call completion if the call is not an intra-LATA call.

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Document Number 13

Entry 13 of 19   File: USPT   Aug 28, 1990

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4953209 A
TITLE: Self-verifying receipt and acceptance system for electronically delivered data objects

BSPR:
While a variety of prior art techniques exist for protecting electronically transmitted and/or magnetically-recorded data objects, all of these that are presently known require either encryption and the use of a decrypting key or algorithm which is normally only available to a previously authorized recipient, or they require prior approval for sending to the recipient. Other than by these techniques, no present system or technique is known which is self-verifying as to the fact that the recipient has actually received the data object, agreed to the authorization conditions of its receipt or use and installed it for reading or use.

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Document Number 19

Entry 19 of 19   File: USPT   Sep 3, 1974

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 3833186 A
TITLE: TELEPHONE ANSWERING DEVICE

BSPR:
Known direct coupled devices require complicated switching circuits
employing a large number of mechanical switching components which makes
such devices expensive to manufacture and prone to mechanical failure.
Also, many such devices require special couplers which are complicated
to install and which are not fully compatible with existing telephone
lines, thus requiring adaptation and prior approval from the owner of
the telephone lines before they may be installed.

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